

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

1727

APPENDIX II.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 125.)

Statement.

Year.	Total number of trees licensed for tapping.	Number licensed for tapping for jaggery toddy.			Number licensed for tapping for fermented toddy.			Number licensed for tapping for bakery.		
		Cocoanut	Palmyra	Sago	Cocoanut	Palmyra	Sago	Cocoanut	Palmyra	Sago
1100.	97671*	6193	8480	7687	62299	8117	4780	106	0	9
1101 till of the end Medam.	96954*	6013	8077	8400	61813	8134	4418	92	0	2

* Includes jaggery toddy, fermented toddy and bakery trees.

Voting of Demands for Grants—(cont).

President.—Questions and Answers are over. I hope that perfect silence will be preserved in the gallery. The next item in the agenda is the Voting of Demands for Grants.

Demand III—Co-operative Societies—Rs. 08 lakh.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 8,050 for the year 1102 under the head "III—Co-operative Societies". A comparison of the amounts asked for under the various sub-heads with those given for the years 1100 and 1101 will show that the budget for 1102 is a normal one, and that it does not provide for any special expenditure. The decrease in the allotment asked for under the head "Travelling allowance", as compared with the revised estimate for 1101, is due to the fact that, in 1102, we do not expect any expensive tour on the part of the Registrar outside the State, as he had

to do in the present year to attend the Conference of Co-operative Registrars, recently held in Bombay. The grant asked for under the head is absolutely necessary, and I hope the Council will allow it.

Motions Nos. 36 to 39.

Mr. K. P. Karuppan.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,237 for Establishment under "Co-operative societies" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,200 for "Co-operative Societies" by one rupee.*

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,200 for "Co-operative Societies" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 11,200 for "Co-operative Societies" by one rupee.*

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്.—ഈ ടോക്കൻ മോഷൻകൊണ്ടു് മിസ്റ്റർ കറുപ്പൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതെന്താണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കറുപ്പൻ.—അധികൃതരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഏതാനും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിക്കണം എന്ന സംഗതിയെ ആണ്.

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്.—എന്നാൽ പറയാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കറുപ്പൻ.—സർ, പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടു് പ്രത്യേകം ഉപകാരം പാവപ്പെട്ട കൃഷിക്കാർക്കും തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കും ആണ്. സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസപ്പെടുന്ന തൊഴിൽക്കാർക്കു് സാമൂഹികശക്തികൾകൊണ്ടു് കാര്യങ്ങൾ പ്രയാസംകൂടാതെ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാവുന്നതാണ്.

കൊച്ചിയിലെ പരസ്പരസഹായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഇരുപതുത്തമുള്ള പരിശ്രമം അധികവും കഴിവും നിവൃത്തിയും ഉള്ള വസ്തുക്കളുടെ ഇടയിലായിപ്പോയിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

ധനവും നാഗരികതവുമുള്ള വസ്തുക്കളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നത് അനാവശ്യമാണെന്ന് എന്റെ നിവേദനത്താൽ ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ പരസ്പരസഹായ സംഘങ്ങളുടെ മൂല്യതത്വങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് ആലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ, അവ പാവങ്ങൾക്കു് കൂടുതൽ ഗുണകരങ്ങളാണെന്ന് മാത്രമേ, ഞാൻ വിചക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന് അർത്ഥമുള്ളൂ. ഇവിടെ ആക്ഷേപി മൂന്നാണു് അവസാനംവരെ 128 സംഘങ്ങൾ പ്രവൃത്തി നടത്തുന്നവയായി കാണപ്പെടുന്നു.

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്.—128 സംഘങ്ങൾ മാത്രമേ ഉള്ളൂ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കറുപ്പൻ.—പ്രവൃത്തി നടത്തുന്നവ അത്രത്തോളമേ ഉള്ളൂ.

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്.—അതിൽ പാവപ്പെട്ടവക്കു് എത്രയാണ് ഉള്ളതു്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കറുപ്പൻ.—എട്ടോളം മാത്രമേ ഉള്ളൂ.

ഇവയിൽ തൊഴിലാളികളായ വാലന്മാർക്കും ആശാരികൾക്കും ഈ ഴവർക്കും മറ്റും കൂടി സംസ്ഥാനമൊട്ടു് ആകെ 12 സംഘങ്ങളിൽ അധികം ഇല്ലെന്നറിയുന്നത് ശോചനീയംതന്നെ.

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്.—അവർക്കായി ആകെ പന്ത്രണ്ടു് ഉള്ളൂ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—അതുമല്ല, പുലയർക്കും പറയർക്കും ഒരു സംഘവും റജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല.

സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലുള്ള ഒട്ടാകെ സംഘങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി 1,268 ബ്രാഹ്മണരും 3,771 നായന്മാരും 4,440 ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളും 752 മഹമ്മദീയരും 4,013 അധികൃതന്മാരാണ് സാമാജികന്മാരായി ചേർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഒട്ടവിലത്തെ സംഖ്യയിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും ഈഴവരും ആണ്. ഈ സംഖ്യകൊണ്ടു് സംസ്ഥാനത്തിലെ ഉദ്ദേശം രണ്ടുമൂന്നു ലക്ഷം സാധുക്കൾക്കു് യാതൊരു ഗുണവും പ്രസ്തുത ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനാൽ സിദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് സ്പഷ്ടമാകുന്നു.

സംഘത്തിന്റേയും സാമാജികന്മാരുടേയും മുൻപറഞ്ഞ സംഖ്യ പരിശോധിച്ചാൽതന്നെ പാവപ്പെട്ട തൊഴിലാളികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ വേണ്ടതുപോലെ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്ന് കാണാം.

തൊഴിലാളികളും കൃഷിവേലക്കാരായ ആളുകളുടെ ഇടയിൽ വേണ്ടത്ര സംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ യോഗ്യിയെ ക്ഷണിക്കുവാനാണ് ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്, ഇപ്പോൾ ഏറ്റെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സംഘങ്ങൾ ഭരിക്കുവാൻതന്നെ കഴിവില്ലാത്ത വിധം അതിൽ ജോലി വലിച്ചിരിക്കുപുതിയ സംഘങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങിക്കൊടുക്കാത്തതിൽ അതിനെ കുറപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതും അനുചിതമായി വരും.

അതുകൊണ്ടു് എന്റെ വിനീതമായ ഒരു നിദ്ദേശം ഇവിടെ നിവേദിപ്പിക്കാം:—

പുലയരേപ്പോലേയും മറ്റുമുള്ള കൂലിവേലക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ സംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചുനടത്തുവാൻ ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ നിയമിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക.

പ്രസിഡെൻ്റ്. അതെ, മിസ്റ്റർ കരുപ്പൻ! മുൻപറഞ്ഞവസരത്തിൽ ഒരു മീറ്റിംഗ് വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടി അവരോടു്—പുലയരോടു്—നാം പലരും ഒക്കെ പറഞ്ഞുവെച്ചിട്ടു് അതിനുശേഷം എന്താണ് അവരുടെ പ്രയത്നമെന്നും മറ്റും ഒന്നും അറിയുന്നില്ലല്ലോ.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കരുപ്പൻ.—ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തകാലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും അങ്ങനെയൊന്നു നിയമിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് സാധുസമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു് വളരെ ഉന്നതി ഉണ്ടാകും. ഈവഴിക്കു് അവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരിപ്പും, അട്രാവശ്യം കഴിവിനുള്ള മാറ്റങ്ങളും പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കും.

തദ്ദേശവാസികളിലെ സാധുവർഗ്ഗക്കാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ നന്നായ രണസംഘങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റെടുത്തുന്നതിന് പ്രത്യേകം ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—അങ്ങനെ ആ വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കായി എത്ര ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ അവിടെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ? പുലയന്മാർക്കും മറ്റും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കുറുപ്പൻ.—വാലന്മാർക്കും ഒരാൾ പ്രത്യേകമായി നിയമിതനായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതെന്നിരിക്കെയാൽ പുലയന്മാർക്കും ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ് അറിവ്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—ഇവിടെ ഒരിടയ്ക്ക് ആണററി ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിക്കാൻ ചില എഴുത്തുകയ്യാൾക്കു നടുത്തിരിയ്ക്കുന്നവല്ലോ? അതെന്തായാ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കുറുപ്പൻ.—അതൊന്നും ആയിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു ആണററി റജിസ്ട്രാർ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—ആണററി റജിസ്ട്രാളുടെ ജോലി എന്തായിരുന്നു?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഈച്ചരമേനോൻ.—സംഘങ്ങളെല്ലാം ചെന്ന് പരിശോധിച്ചുവരികയാണ് അയാളുടെ ജോലി.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—അതുപോലെ കുറെ ആണററി റജിസ്ട്രാർമാരെ ചെച്ചാൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമോ എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കുറുപ്പൻ.—അങ്ങനെയൊരാളാ താഴെ പറയുന്നവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ സംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിയ്ക്കാൻ തടസ്സം നേരിടും.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ട്.—ഈഴവരിൽ ചിലർ ആണററിയായി ജോലി ചെയ്യാമെന്ന് എന്നോട് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ, സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നും അംഗീകരണം സിദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നാണ് അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കുറുപ്പൻ.—അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തുകിൽ മാത്രമേ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വ ബോധത്തോടുകൂടി ജോലി ചെയ്തുള്ളൂ.

സഹകരണ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ വിശുതന്മാരായ സ്വാമി കുഞ്ഞുപിള്ള, സർ രാജഗോപാലാചാരി മുതലായവരുടെ കീഴിൽ പരിശീലനം സിദ്ധിച്ച അമ്മുക്കോക്കാപറേററീവ് റജിസ്ട്രാർ അവർക്കുക്ക് എന്റെ ഈ നിവേദനം ഹിതകരമായിരിക്കുമെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ഒരു സെൻട്രൽ ബാങ്ക് ഡയറക്ടറുടെ നിലയിലും, സഹകരണസംഘങ്ങൾ സാധ്യസമുദായങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രമേൽ ഉപകരിക്കുമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടും, ശ്രദ്ധപതിക്കും എന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തോടും കൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ വിഷയത്തെ ഇവിടെ ഉപക്ഷേപിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Sir, considering the usefulness of the Co-operative Department, I beg to state that the amount allotted for the next year is quite insufficient to carry out the objects of its institution. If we look at it from the aspect of its present activities or the work it is called upon to do in future, the amount budgetted for the next year is quite insuf-

ficient. I shall presently show how this department has developed during the last 10 and odd years. The Co-operative Society Regulation was passed in 1089, and no practical work seems to have been done till the end of one year. I think that it was in 1090 that a man trained in the British service was appointed as the Co-operative Registrar who began to organise societies. From 5 or 6 societies, it has now developed to about 130 societies, with 15,000 members and Rs. 95,000 as reserve fund and 20 lakhs of rupees as working capital. From this it will be clear that this department has expanded to a great extent. We find from the budget that provision is made for only three Inspectors. These three Inspectors have to audit the accounts of these 130 societies twice a year, according to the rules. Each Inspector would take two or three days to inspect one society, if he is to do it properly.

President.—A re-organisation has been proposed by the Registrar, stating that the staff is insufficient, and the work has increased. The proposal, as it is, has been sent to the Special Finance Committee.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Finance Committee is looking into the matter.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—These three Inspectors have to attend to so many other works such as investigation, inquiries about petitions, etc., in addition to their usual work. I think that most of you know that all these Societies—at any rate, some of them—are not worked as efficiently as they ought to be. This proves beyond doubt that more efficient and better supervision and inspection are necessary. Under these circumstances, the present staff of three Inspectors, I am afraid, will not be able to cope with the work they have to attend to. About the usefulness of this department, I do not think that I need say much. Ours is an agricultural country, and agriculture is mainly carried on by the poor people. Their chronic indebtedness is proverbial. Our lands also are limited. The Agricultural Department is advocating improved methods of cultivation, ploughing, scientific manuring and such other things. This requires money, and these poor ryots will not be able to take up any of these works in earnest on the ground that they have no funds. Again, cottage industries such as spinning, coir-making, etc., ought to be encouraged and developed. The Co-operative Institutions can do much in these directions. So far as I know, the 130 societies, which exist at present, are mostly Credit Societies. They have done practically nothing in the direction of agricultural development. We want therefore, Agricultural Co-operative Societies and Industrial Co-operative

Societies to promote agriculture and industries, respectively. We have to educate and induce these poor people to form Co-operative Societies. They have at present absolutely no idea about these societies. Much educative propaganda and pioneer work have to be done. In the same way the cottage industries have also to be improved. They are now practically in the hands of capitalist merchants or in the hands of their middle men. They should also be rescued from their clutches and should be placed on their own legs. All this requires organisation, and I can think of no better organisation than the Co-operative Societies. For carrying out these objects, the amount allotted is very inadequately small. It is smaller than the budgetted amount for this year by about 700 and odd rupees. But it was now explained that most of that extra amount practically cover the travelling allowance of the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies. Whatever that may be, it seems to be a cutting down of the expenditure in the item of travelling allowance. This does not seem to be a move in the right direction. It should not in any way be allowed. It would mean less supervision and inspection. The more the Inspectors travel and inspect the societies, the more efficient the societies will become.

President.—This travelling allowance is special. The Registrar, you see, had to go to Bombay during the year in order to attend the Co-operative Registrars' Conference there. That is the reason why such a big amount under "Traveling allowance" is seen.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—I may also try to answer one of the questions put from the Chair to the Hon'ble Member for Valans. Considering the present education and the economic condition of the people, especially of the poor classes, it is only the Government that can effectively organise them. It is not enough if Honorary Inspectors are appointed to do that work, not because that they will not do the work properly, not that we cannot find persons who will do the work properly, but because they have not sufficient powers to correct the members of the societies whenever it is found necessary. I think that even with the powers now given to the Co-operative Registrar under the Regulation, he finds it very difficult to punish or correct any of the societies whenever it goes wrong. Under such circumstances, if Honorary Inspectors are appointed, it is not possible for them to carry on the work entrusted to them. They can only advise. If the people are educated and conscious of their civic responsibility, they will be able to take advantage of the advice. But our work

lies among the poor. We are going to introduce the societies in their midst. There must be some sort of power to punish them departmentally, when they go wrong. So these Honorary Inspectors will not be able to do much work in that direction. What I wish to bring to the notice of this House is that the Co-operative Department being a very useful department and a department that can do much to ameliorate the distressed condition of the poor people, the amount budgetted for the next year is quite insufficient to carry on the objects of that department.

President.—We have now 3 Inspectors. How many more are necessary?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—I cannot say the exact number. That will depend upon the work they will be called upon to do and the number of societies. Even if there are 6 Inspectors and they are sent to six different taluks, there will be plenty of work for them for the next 6 years. We have now three Inspectors. Three more Inspectors will be sufficient for the time being. They have to carry on a certain amount of propaganda work. In fact, they have to educate the people, organise societies and put them in the way. The more they are organised, the more they are in touch with these societies and the members, the better for them and the country.

President.—What is the pay provided?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Rs. 35 to 50. That is what I see in the budget.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the inadequate supervision exercised on Co-operative Societies. The subject of my motion has been already anticipated to a large extent by the Member for Urakam, and he has spoken on the usefulness of the co-operative movement in great detail. Co-operation is the only solution for the amelioration of the economic condition of the people. It is an abstract subject, and our people have not yet really understood its potentialities for development on useful lines. We started in the year 1090 with 11 societies of 829 members, with a working capital of 9,747 rupees, and the total value of the business was Rs. 25,342. By the end of 1100, we have 128 societies of 14,400 members with a working capital of Rs. 11,23,272. That shows that there is an enormous increase in the work of the department, and the time has come when the necessary increase in the inspectorate has to be sanctioned for proper supervision. Efficient audit and close supervision go to the success of the movement, and from *the Administration Report for 1100*

it is seen that the Departmental Head has complained to the Government of inadequate supervision, and I invite the attention of this House to paragraph 2 of his *Report*.

"The spontaneous increase in the number of the ordinary type of societies and the consequent expansion of work in this direction and the enormous demand on the time and energy of the department for the ratification of the dormant ones have made the task of efficient supervision almost a *physical impossibility*, with the existing staff in office and the executive line. The department is a developing one, and unless the staff is adequate and efficient to the task in hand, stagnation may follow."

Unfortunately, the Government did not pay any heed to this aspect of the question, and it is to draw the attention of the Government to this aspect that I tabled this motion. With regard to the query put from the Chair to the Hon'ble Member for Urakam as to how many Inspectors are necessary, I think we can safely entrust each Inspector with the management of 30 societies, and we have at the end of 1100 only 128 societies, and this year we have got some new societies registered. At this rate I think five Inspectors are enough, of which we have already three, and two more are quite essential. And their work will be to form new societies on an industrial basis. With regard to the classification of present societies on the basis of the character of their work, you will find there are at present one central financial institution—the Central Bank, the Co-operative Central Institute for propaganda and supervision work, 107 Agricultural Societies, 12 Town Societies, 31 Mofussil Societies, 4 Fishermen Societies, 3 Societies for Irrigation and still one Society for Purchase and Sale. There are various directions in which this department can be brought in aid to improve the condition of the people, and I would also suggest that an expert, preferably from the Servants of India Society, may be invited to take stock of our present situation with regard to the co-operative movement in the Cochin State and to suggest the lines with regard to the future working of our societies. With these few words, I have done.

President.—What is being done with the 5,000 rupees sanctioned for propaganda work? I do not know who is in charge of that.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—A point of information, Sir. Is there anybody to deal with the Central Co-operative Institute?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—They have got down some foreign literature. They have also a library which is very useful to specialists, and not to anybody else.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I remember Mr. Pettah has done something.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am afraid the Hon'ble Member for the Anglo-Indians is belittling the work that is being done by Mr. Pettah in his capacity as Secretary.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I think the Hon'ble Member is casting personal reflections on Mr. Pettah, and it should not be done, especially when he is not a member here. It so happens that both of them belong to the same College.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It is true that they have rented a room where they keep a library. I think they have also started a magazine, and they have issued some leaflets, and have circulated them throughout the State, explaining the necessity of co-operative action. It is only an initial work, and I believe it is progressing. They have also ordered some books from America.

President.—Of course, propaganda work is to be done first, before sending orders to America.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It comes from books.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—On a point of information, how many days per month are these Inspectors away in camp?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—20 days. Inspectors Messrs. C. K. Ravi Varma Tampan and K. S. Narayana Ayyar spent 294 and 356 days, respectively, in camp, as against 205 and 110 days respectively in the previous year.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That was in 1100. I want the figures of 1101.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—They are not available.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Sir, I oppose the motion for a cut.

President.—Are you for or against the strengthening of this staff?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I do not wish to thwart the object of this motion, but I wish only to raise a discussion on a different point. Last year we were discussing this point when we were on the question of giving a grant to the Central Co-operative Institute. Speeches were made in support of that resolution. The main burden of those speeches was that, by granting this amount, propaganda work will be done amongst the poor people by the society. Even then I raised a voice of protest saying that the State was making a new departure, when we were making this grant. We have had enough of grants like this. We made grants for industrial purposes. They were complete failures, and in making a grant for this new-born so-

ciety, we must be on our guard. The House voted for the resolution. Now, we are asked to provide for one or two Government Inspectors to do propaganda work among the poor. Last year, the cry was to give a grant for a private agency to do propaganda work among the poor.

President.—Not alone, propaganda work, but this examination of accounts and then the organisation of new societies. All these things have to be done, and the three Inspectors that we have now are not found sufficient to do full justice to the work.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I submit, Sir, that the chief plea raised for the grant is that the propaganda work has to be done, and the department as it was then organised was unable to do that work. Last year we had to invite private agencies for the work. Only now we know that books have been ordered. It took one year to get this information.

President.—It took some time for the resolution to be considered by the Government, and only after six months proceedings were passed on the subject. We were not fully engaged in this alone for one year.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I believe the society had some pre-conceived idea. They wanted to make some plans. Then it was that the society was invited to do some work. I said that it was unnecessary to give this grant of Rs. 5,000 for a private agency to do propaganda work. There is no use in having a new Inspector to do propaganda work for the public when the society does the work. Perhaps, the propaganda work hitherto done by the society was certain lantern lectures. The chief work that it has to do is among the poor. If the society is unable, then, of course, the Government must take sufficient measures to see that the money is not spent in any other manner. If the Government is unable, I again say that it is money spent for nothing. Because the chief object is missed, there is no meaning in the Government's now going in for a new Inspector.

President.—But who is responsible for this Rs. 5,000? Has the Co operative Registrar furnished any information as to what is being done with it?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—He has not furnished any information.

President.—We must get the details.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—If the Government is not able to see that sufficient propaganda and organising work is done, I submit that the Government should exercise all its powers to see that the money is repaid. There is no use of going in for private agencies for doing propaganda work. In the coming

year a plea may be raised to have one more Inspector to do the same work.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I oppose the motion, but on quite different grounds. I am very sorry that there is none in this House who can give us adequate information regarding the work that the Central Co-operative Institute, to which the Government have paid Rs. 5,000, has been doing. I know a little more than what the Member for Anglo-Indians was able to tell the House. The Land Revenue Member will be able to testify to the work that the Institute has done in Pazhuvam, where a Co-operative Conference was held, presided over by him. I myself was present there, and there was a very large gathering. The conference was held under the auspices of the Central Co-operative Institute. These conferences constitute one of the several forms of propaganda work. A large collection was made by a local society to hold the conference. There is a society at Kurimpilavu, of which a cousin of the Hon'ble Member for Urakam is the Secretary, and he was mainly responsible for organising the conference. It was begun as a small affair, namely, the conference of the society itself but at the suggestion of the Institute it was made, the Trichur Taluk Conference, and a bigger Committee was formed of which Mr. E. Gopala Menon was Secretary.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—To take all the credit.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am very sorry the Hon'ble Member himself has not been to any Co-operative meeting.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—And I have not been invited.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I believe the Hon'ble Member for Land Revenue will be able to tell us whether any propaganda work was done at the Pazhuvam Conference. There was also present some of the staff of the Agricultural Department who utilised the opportunity to do some propaganda work in their line. The Co-operative Institute has arranged to hold conferences in Trippunittura and Vadakkancheri. They will come off very soon. It has also been decided to start a magazine, and ere long the first number will be published. Seeing that it is only five or six months since the Government grant was handed over to the Institute, I do not think much more than this can be expected. It may be remembered that the whole work is being done on honorary basis.

Coming to the motion, I am opposed to the appointment of more Inspectors for propaganda work. In the field of Co-operation, propaganda work done by Government agencies has seldom shown large successes. It was that feeling that led us to support the Co-operative Institute with a grant. Even before the Co-operative Institute was started, the Central Bank, which

gets some support from the Government by way of investments, was doing some propaganda work. As a Director of the Bank I have had opportunities of knowing the work that is being done by that institution. The several State Co-operative Conferences, in the last of which Mr. Devadhar, Vice-President of the Servants of India Society, presided, were organised by the Co-operative Central Bank. The last conference was held in the Central Farm at Ollukkara—when a very large number of delegates and private gentlemen had assembled on the occasion. It is my conviction that whatever propaganda work was done by private agencies has borne ample fruit, and when the Central Institute also comes into full working, a great stride will be made in co-operative activities. I have had occasion, as Director of the Central Co-operative Bank, to visit several societies, and I have found that there is lack of supervision over these bodies. Supervision can be done only by Government agencies, and not by any other body. I have seen societies which have not yet realised that several months, nay, years, have passed, since they entered the last item in their account books. I have seen societies which have not kept minutes of the meetings properly. I have seen societies with books in which unattested minutes were found entered. I have come across several irregularities in the working of societies which are all attributable to want of effective supervision. I do not say a word against the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The fact is the inspecting staff is undermanned. Seeing that Co-operative Societies are run on a purely honorary basis, we should expect that such irregularities and many more would occur until the co-operative idea and a sense of responsibility are instilled into the people. I do not say that the Registrar and his Inspectors are not doing full work at present. That is not my point. My point is that they are undermanned.

President.—You have heard that Co-operation is essential. People must work the thing. The Government cannot do everything. Leading people must take the initiative.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Supervision also by them?

President.—Supervision is necessary to make undertakings successful.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Certainly; when we reach that stage, we can do that, and do away with that department altogether. There would be little danger in doing that. But our people are not so cultured as to feel the sense of responsibility. So that, for some time, we have to have in hand a sufficiently large inspection-staff until there is available a large body of people who are ready to make any sacrifice for maintaining the efficiency of

their societies. Sir, what you said is right. When the Registrar goes for inspecting a society, the Secretary may not be in his place. I have had the same experience in several places. I went to a society, but then the responsible officers were not available, and I had to go there again and again. If I am not successful on my first attempt, then I will have to go to the place several times until I succeed. It is for these reasons that I say that adequate and effective supervision is not exercised. When the people come to feel sufficiently about their sense of responsibility, then, of course, we can reduce the supervising staff. But I believe it will take some more time. Till the co-operative idea spreads, and the people realise fully well the utility of these societies, I think a strong staff will have to be maintained.

President.—But you opposed the motion for the appointment of additional Inspectors.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—We need not have any Inspectors for propaganda work.

There is another motion in my name. I will say here all that I have to say in regard to that. All our societies are running on a credit basis. That is the least constructive side of Co-operation. There are 107 Agricultural Societies, as per *the Administration Report*. It is not proper to call these Agricultural Societies, for no agricultural work is done by them except the granting of loans for agricultural purposes. That is not the real part that should be played by these Agricultural Societies. We have very few agricultural stores. Manure can be supplied by societies on a co-operative basis. There are several other activities which 'Co-operation' can undertake, but then people must realise the sense of responsibility. Till then we have to spend money and work hard. Honorary men may be appointed to supervise. The Member for Trippunittura was an Honorary Supervisor for some time; and as such he was doing very good work. He is now otherwise engaged.

President.—Even before he was otherwise engaged, he gave it up.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—He was employed in the Bank.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know what is the amount of security furnished by the Secretary of the Central Co-operative Bank?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is already tabled.

പ്രസിഡൻ്റ്.—ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് മിസ്റ്റർ ശങ്കരൻ നമ്പൂതിരിക്ക് വല്ലതും പറയാനുണ്ടോ? നിങ്ങൾ കോപ്പറേറ്റീവ് സെൻ്റൽ ബാങ്കിലെ ഒരു ഡയറക്ടർ ആണല്ലോ? ഇവിടെ നിന്നും അനുവദിച്ചു

കൊടുത്ത അയ്യായിരം രൂപയിൽ എന്തു ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്? ആ പണം കൊണ്ട് ഇതേവരെ എന്താണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ശങ്കരൻ നമ്പൂതിരി.—അതിൽനിന്ന് സംഖ്യയൊന്നും ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല. ഒരു ലൈബററി തുടങ്ങാനും പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വരുത്താനും തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു മാസിക നടത്താനുള്ള ആലോചനയും ഏകദേശം പൂർത്തിയാക്കാനായി ലൈബററിയ്ക്കായി ചില പുസ്തകങ്ങൾക്ക് എഴുതിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. താമസിയാതെ വന്നുചേരും. എഴുത്തുറോളം രൂപയുടെ പുസ്തകങ്ങളാണ് തല്ക്കാലം വരുത്തുന്നത്. ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്ന് സംഖ്യ കിട്ടിച്ച് അധികം ദിവസമായിട്ടും ഇല്ല.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടുണ്ട്.—പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ വരുത്തി വായിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കാം അല്ലേ? (*Laughter.*) അതുകൊണ്ട് എന്താണ് വലിയ പ്രയോജനം?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ശങ്കരൻ നമ്പൂതിരി.—എന്തെങ്കിലും പുസ്തകവായന കൊണ്ടും മറ്റും ജനങ്ങളിൽ സംഘങ്ങളേപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള അറിവ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർത്തതിനുമേൽ പ്രവൃത്തി തുടങ്ങിയാൽ കൂടുതൽ ഫലമുണ്ടാവും. താമസിയാതെ പ്രവൃത്തി തുടങ്ങുവാനും ഏല്പാറ്റ് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടുണ്ട്.—അതുകൊണ്ട് കുറേക്കാലം ക്ഷമിച്ചിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് പറയുന്നത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ശങ്കരൻ നമ്പൂതിരി.—ക്ഷമിച്ചിരിക്കണമെന്നല്ല. പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടന്നുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I wish to say something in this connection. I do not wish to say anything which has already been submitted. One point has been ignored by the previous speakers, and that is regarding the interest charged on the loans taken from the Co-operative Credit Societies. In the *Administration Report*, the interest is given as varying up to 12 per cent. As a matter of fact, 12 per cent is charged by many of the societies. Now, I suppose everything would have been good when, as a matter of fact, the interest charged on loans taken is not so very heavy, but we will find from the accounts of the Co-operative Credit Societies that a high rate of interest is levied, and this shows the inadequate work done by these Honorary Supervisors and the Inspectors unless proper steps are taken to reduce the amount of interest, unless proper steps are taken to see that the people pay the remittances regularly, you will find that they are not doing any good to the people at large. One would ask:—What are these Co-operative Credit Societies for? I am not the champion of the Credit Societies at all. Judging from the figures read now, there are 14,400 members on the rolls of the various Credit Societies. So the activities of the various departments are concentrated then on the credit side. No one can deny that the improving of agriculture by means of co-operation is the furthering of the common good of the agricultural population.

Now, the activities of the Co-operative Department for the last decade of its existence, touches only the fringe of the population. As suggested by the Member for Chalakkudi, we have to do more of co-operative work amongst these farmers. Manure Supply Societies, Agricultural Produce Societies and similar other societies should be started in the rural districts in our various villages, including the outlying villages of our State. All these should be worked by honorary workers alone. Well, I don't think this Co-operative Institute alone can work them. They can only supplement the official work, and if we can successfully start more societies on the model of societies enumerated just now, it will help much.

President.—I suppose on an industrial basis also.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—And then, some of the other cottage industries also should be introduced. We can then combine the offices of the Co-operative Registrar and the Industrial Director. It is safe to club together these two departments.

President.—That is also a thing where there is much scope for co-operation.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Three-fourths of their activities could be directed to the rural districts, to deal with agriculturists. That should be our plan of work. So I think the question of the appointment of two additional Inspectors is the smallest demand, and unless two more additional Inspectors are sanctioned, I am sure the activities of the department will not bring any good. And the Government should do something to reduce the interest to 6 or 7 per cent. If we raise more interest than 6 or 7 per cent, there will not be much benefit of these societies. The Government will not deny that Co-operative Credit Societies should urge members to pay back the remittances regularly. Then I do not fear many of these Credit Societies will not show a good balance sheet.

President.—Is it on account of their ignorance or inability to issue notice to the defaulters.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—If notices are issued, will they pay? If they do not pay, that is their own fault. The Member for Chalakkudi is a President of one of the Town Co-operative Banks, and I think he can enlighten us on this point.

President.—The question is whether notices are issued.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—They are not.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Permit me, Sir, I shall explain.

President.—Do you know whether notices are issued or not?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—They are issued.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I do not think.

President.—I am inclined to agree with him; for it is more on account of the inability to pay—not that they have funds and do not pay.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—The percentage of interest is too high.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The penalty is very high; that is why they are not able to pay.

President.—What is the interest that they now pay?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Generally, in most societies, it is 12½ per cent.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Two pies per rupee per mensem; i. e., 12½ per cent. That is the nominal rate.

President.—I think we had enough discussion on this subject. Is the House to be divided on this motion? All the facts having been placed before the House, all these motions may be taken to have been withdrawn. Any Member wishing to criticise any motion?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—No, no.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—No, no.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Any imposition about security from the Secretary to the Central Co-operative Bank?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No security. He is a Government officer lent. I think there is a deed.

President.—No security has been received.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Money is not in his possession. It is kept in a box in the Treasury in the Tahsildar's custody.

President.—Of course, the Co-operative Registrar will check.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The Tahsildar is one of the Council members.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Now, they are doing very good work.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—That has been in existence for 4 or 5 years.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The public money is there, in the Central Co-operative Bank. It is doing splendid work. We must have security.

Demand III was put and agreed to.

President.—I call the Superintendent of Excise to move his demand.

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We first realise and pay back; that is the explanation.

Motions Nos. 40—48.

Mr. K. T. Mathew. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,658 for Superintendent's Office Establishment by Rs. 100.*

Mr. A. B. Salem. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,658 for Superintendent's Office Establishment by Rs. 100.*

Dr. A. R. Menon. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,188 for Fish-Curing Yards Establishment.*

Mr. C. N. Idiravi Nambudiri. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by one rupee.*

Mr. S. F. Nunez. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by Rs. 25,000.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by one rupee.*

Mr. M. K. Raman. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by Rs. 2,000.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri. *To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 under "Excise" by Rs. 25,000.*

President.—Now, we come to the cut motions under "Excise". There are 3 cuts on detailed items, i. e., Nos. 40, 41 and 42, of Mr. Mathew, Mr. Salem and Dr. A. R. Menon. Mr. A. B. Salem is absent. First, Mr. K. T. Mathew's cut motion.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move, Sir, to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,658 for 'Office establishment' by Rs. 100. The object of this motion is to bring to the attention of this House that there is much discontent among the poor tapping community in the State on account of the existing license fee system for tapping for jaggery manufacture.

Jaggery-making was once a flourishing cottage industry in our State. But, on account of the restrictions and the impositions placed upon that industry ^{and} ~~at~~ ^{that} time, that industry is slowly dying out. It has been ^{by} ~~by~~ the Hon'ble Member for Excise that we are following ^{Now} ~~the~~ Excise policy adopted by the British Government. In British India no license fee is collected for tapping for jaggery manufacture, and I, therefore, ask the Hon'ble Member whether it would not be proper to follow the Excise policy of the Madras Government in this matter also. (*Hear, hear.*) This license fee is causing distress not only to the tapping community but also to the arecanut planters in the State. In answer to a question, it is stated that at 2 annas per tree the value of the total produce of arecanut in the State would be Rs. 7,78,400. Because of the license system, many palmyra trees are not tapped. And as a result of this palmyra-tree nuts are being made use of for adulteration of arecanut to be imported

with the result that, people are losing about 2 crores of rupees per year.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—You mean sago?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sago, I mean. Instead of this, the Government gets only Rs. 7,000 per year.

President.—What is the use of it?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The people make use of this sago nuts for adulteration purposes. They sell them as arecanuts. As a result of that, the price of arecanuts has gone down and has gone down considerably. The agricultural Superintendent should have brought this matter to the attention of the Government, as every year people are losing a very large amount.

President.—If these trees are made use of by the people for tapping, then, there will be no nuts at all.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—No, No.

President.—What do you say, Mr. Eachara Menon? If they are given away for tapping purposes, there will be no nuts.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—No, Sir. But every tree is not used for tapping.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Against an income of Rs. 7,000 to the State, people are losing every year about 2 lakhs of rupees. This is a serious matter which the Government should consider at the earliest opportunity. Anticipating that the answer would come from the Hon'ble Member for Excise that this question has been referred to the Excise Committee, I addressed a letter to the Excise Superintendent to consider this matter before this budget session, so that some definite action might be taken. But the letter was not acknowledged; and no action was taken upon it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No action was taken, to the Member's knowledge.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I can only say so much. The answer does not show that any action has been taken. It is stated in one of the answers given that "The Excise Committee recently constituted will enquire into the advisability of abolishing the license fee, and the Government will examine their recommendations, if any, on the matter. Till then, the present system will have to be continued". That is the answer. The jaggery industry has been slowly dying out in the State. The number of trees tapped is reducing year by year.

President.—But in British and other parts, of course, there is no license fee realised. What is the state of the industry there?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Jaggery is produced in large quantities.

President.—I mean, in the Ponnani Taluk?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I do not know about the Ponnani Taluk.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—There cocoanuts are tapped.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Jaggery is being imported into the State.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In 1996, for tapping for jaggery manufacture licenses were given for 28,872 trees. In 1997, the number went down to 26,877. In 1998, the number again fell down to 21,400. This shows that the industry is not progressing; but slowly dying out. If adequate measures are not taken, I fear this industry will be rooted out. In addition to the license fee, collection, there are various other impositions put upon the people who want licenses. This has been well brought out by the Member for Vadakkancheri who is an expert in this subject.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Jaggery? That is a big complement.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—On a point of explanation, Sir, I have no objection to these things being reiterated over and over again, but not a single case has been brought to my notice. These exactions are not allowed by the Government. There was a petition. I enquired into the petition. Out of 30 petitioners, 26 were examined. Four were absent. None of them were able to say that the contents of the petition was true.

President.—In all these matters, evidence is not possible. But if you do away with this, then they won't bother you. On account of these license applications, and the enquiry of these Aminadars and other people, they are put to too much inconvenience and difficulties and all that. Do away with that system, and then there won't be any difficulty. The point is that. Not that there is any foundation in all this, but it is not possible to make out a case.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I ask, Sir, why the the number of trees should be restricted to 20, if a man can tap more than 20. Why should we not allow as many trees as a man can tap? I do not want to take much time of the House.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Sir, it is a general principle that, if you want to encourage an industry in a State or in a country, you should not impose any restrictions whatsoever upon that industry. Wherever you find restrictions, either in the shape of Government monopoly or tax, that industry does not thrive properly. That principle is applicable both to industry as well as agriculture.

President.—What about the fishery industry?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I will include that also.

Now, in our parts, that is the taluk from which I come, there are a large number of these palmyra trees which are practically of no use for any purpose but to manufacture toddy or jaggery.

Now, we have heard a lot from the Excise Superintendent about the methods the Government is pursuing to restrict drink. One way of reducing drink and at the same time avoiding injury to those who depend upon this tapping business is to discourage tapping for toddy proper, and to encourage tapping for jaggery.—what you call sweet toddy—so that with a corresponding diminution on the one side there will be a corresponding increase on the other, and these poor people who entirely depend upon this toddy drink will not be put to great difficulties.

Another point is this. This is a very big industry which should grow and develop; and if you, Sir, have time to consult the Agricultural Superintendent, he would be able to convince you that it is workable, that it could be worked on a basis of great profit to the State and benefit to our people.

President.—That is to say, if we allow this sweet toddy and allow free tapping, there will be considerable reduction in drink?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Yes, that also. If you allow free tapping for sweet toddy, you are justified in imposing restrictions upon tapping for toddy, because in such a case you do not take away the occupation of the people engaged in tapping. You must show a means of livelihood before you take the occupation which they have been following from generation to generation. It is only after that that you have the moral right to come forward and say "We are going to be a dry country"; we will not allow you to draw this toddy.) It is only after that that you can introduce any regulation or rates, and I earnestly think that, if you encourage jaggery manufacture without imposing any restriction, people will take more and more to this industry, and by a co-operative system with efficient management, I think, this State can not only make the profit that it is making to-day, but much more. After all, 7,000 rupees does not go far enough. Therefore, I think it is but right that the Government should consider this question and sacrifice the small revenue derived from this, considering the importance of the subject to so many of our people who live upon this industry. That is all I wish to say on that point.

The other point I wish to say is this. I gave a cut motion to omit the allotment of Rs. 1,188 for the Fish-Curing Yard establishment.

Now, Sir, the point is this. For the last 6 years from 1094—1099, there is roughly a loss of about Rs. 2,000 per year in working this establishment, and I do not understand why a loss is incurred in regard to the Fish-Curing Yard, i. e., on a commercial item like this. After the explanation I received from the Excise Superintendent, I do not think it necessary to press the matter.

President.—He may be given a chance to explain this item.

Have you any remarks?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I will show that the Fish-Curing Yards are not worked at a loss but at a gain.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—മിസ്റ്റർ കൺതുമുഹമ്മദ്, കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷം വേമ്പലൂർ ഫിഷ് ക്യൂറിങ് യാർഡ് എടുത്തുകൊടുത്തതിനാൽ പുതിയ ഒരു യാർഡ് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്ന് അറിയിക്കാൻ വന്ന കൂട്ടത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ലേ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കൺതുമുഹമ്മദ്.—ഞാനും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—യാർഡുമൂലം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന് ലാഭമോ നഷ്ടമോ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്? ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ ഉപകാരമുള്ളതാണെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കൺതുമുഹമ്മദ്.—ജനങ്ങൾക്ക്, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു സാധുക്കൾക്ക് ഈ സ്ഥാപനം വളരെ ഉപകാരത്തെ ചെയ്യുന്നത് തന്നെയാണ്. ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന് കൂടെ നഷ്ടം നേരിടാതിരിക്കുകയല്ല. സാധുസംരക്ഷണത്തിനാണ് ഞല്ലാ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് സ്വല്പം നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നത് വലിയ കാര്യമാണല്ലോ.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—If this goes to the benefit of the poor, I have nothing to say. I thought it was a commercial concern.

President.—That was the substantial cause of complaint which they—many of the people of Patinjare Vempallur—had. And they wanted the thing to be opened last year itself.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—This year.

President.—I mean, this year. I said we will consider the question, and that there is no fund. യാർഡുകളുദ്യോഗിയുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം എന്താണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കൺതുമുഹമ്മദ്.—പറയാം. ഇത് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വളരെ ഉപകാരമുള്ളതാണ്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മലബാറിൽ പൊന്നാനി താലൂക്കിന്റെ തെക്കേ അറ്റത്തു് വേമ്പലൂർ എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു് ഒരു ചാപ്പ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതു് വളരെ കാലമായി നടന്നുവന്നതാണ്. ആ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ള ആളുകൾ ആ ചാപ്പകൊണ്ടു് വളരെ സുഖമായി കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടിയിരുന്നു. ആ പലത്തിൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും ആ ചാപ്പ എടുത്തുകൊടുത്തു. അവരുടെ അതൃത്തിയിൽ പെട്ടവർക്കല്ല, അന്യരാജ്യക്കാരായ കൊച്ചിക്കാക്കാണ് അതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഗുണം മുഴുവനും

ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്. അവരുടെ ആളുകൾക്ക് ഗുണമൊന്നുമില്ല. കൊച്ചിക്കാക്ക് വേണമെങ്കിൽ അവർ അവരുടെ നാട്ടിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊള്ളട്ടെ എന്ന ന്യായവും പറഞ്ഞാണ് ഇത് എടുത്തുകൂട്ടത്തക്കതെന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ പുതിയ ഒരു ചാപ്പുക്കായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചത്. ആ സ്ഥാപനം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപകാരമുള്ളതാണെന്നുള്ളതിന് സംശയമില്ല. ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് നഷ്ടമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞത് ഉപ്പിന്റെ വ്യക്തിനഷ്ടമാകയാൽ ലാഭത്തിൽ നഷ്ടമെന്നുള്ളതു.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—There is only this. The Excise Department supplies salt. But it comes under fisheries.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Free of duty.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We are not working at a loss. By some mistake in the manipulation of figures for a long time past, it was wrongly stated in the *Administration Report*—I mean in the *Report* sent up by my department—that every year we were incurring a loss. What we do is we actually charge the curers only the cost-price of salt *plus* the cost of transport, the cost of establishment charges and the cost of P. C. R. works. Our cost price is 13 annas at Malipuram. At the Narakkāl Fish-Curing Yard, after including the charges which I mentioned, the price would come to Re. 1—0—8 a maund, and the curers are charged that price. At Chellanam transport charges are slightly on the increase. So, the charge for Chellanam curers is at Re. 1—2—8 per maund.

President. Re. 1—2—8? The other is?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Re. 1—0—8. In the *Administration Report for 1100*, it is stated that we are working the Yards at Narakkal and Chellanam at a deficit of Rs. 1,527 as against Rs. 1,545 in the previous year. This is due to a mistake in calculating the profit and loss, which was committed some years ago, and which appears to have been repeated in successive years. This is how the mistake has arisen. In the *Administration Report for 1100*, forwarded from my Office, the figures are stated thus for the Narakkal Fish-Curing Yard.

Year.	Cost of salt supplied to the yard.	Transport and other charges.	Establishment charges.	P. C. R. charges.	Total expenditure.	Receipts.	Deficit.
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1100	4,79-1-10-8	275-13-4	468-0-0	30-0-0	5,565-8-0	4,580-3-4	985-4-5.
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Under the heading "cost of salt supplied to the Yard" is included not only the cost of salt actually sold to the curers, which came to 4,397 maunds (its cost Rs. 4,580—3—4), but also the cost of salt remaining unsold, viz., 427 maunds (its cost Rs. 211-7-4). In arriving at the total expenditure, the cost of

salt supplied to the Yard was also included, instead of including only the transport and other contingent charges, establishment and P. C. R. charges, which is clearly a mistake. The same mistake was repeated with regard to the Chellanam Fish-Curing Yard.

President.—I think we can rectify it in the next *Administration Report*.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir. I explained it to the Hon'ble Member. In fact, we neither gain nor lose.

President—Mr. Kunju Muhammad says it is a loss.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It would be a loss, only if the issue of salt is very very small. In the issue of salt to the curers, we have to incur expenditure under transport, establishment and P. C. R. charges. If there is no issue of salt at all, and we have to maintain an establishment, then there will certainly be a loss. As I have already said, the price of salt is fixed after taking into consideration the cost of establishment and other charges incurred by the Government, including the actual cost of salt, which comes to 13 as. per maund. So, when the Sirkar sells salt at a certain rate, viz., Re 1-0-8 per maund, to the Narakkal curers, it neither gains nor loses.

In the case of Chellanam, there also we neither gain nor lose. In Edavilangu also the same will be the case. The price of salt has to be fixed by me, and it is fixed in such a way that the Government neither gains nor loses. No doubt, in one sense, the Government loses. That is the duty we forego for the sake of this industry. That is all.

President.—That is the point.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Yes, Sir, I understand the point.

President.—Mr. Rama Ayyar wanted to say something.

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to support the motion. I want to point out to the Government that there are certain things that come under 'Excise', and that they must be prepared, as early as possible, to do in the interests of the public.

(1) In the matter of drink, even those who have the habit do not seem to think that it is a desirable habit. When a man gets drunk he forgets himself, and, in this condition, says and does things which he would not do in his sober moments. As such, people who do not drink don't like to come into close contact with drunken people, as they are sometimes offensive, and sometimes even dangerous. What I, therefore, want is that all retail liquor shops must be removed to quarters where people who want to get drunk may go and drink to their hearts' content, while there will be less chance of their coming into con-

tact with other people—outside Municipal limits, away from the public streets, away from markets, schools, places of worship and other public resorts. These are the places where these shops can be conveniently located. There need be no anxiety about the income. Sale would be none the less for this change, because, for the people who have acquired the habit it, is a thing that they cannot do without, and they will have it, whatever be the obstacles in their way, and it is seen that the prescribed quantity is always consumed.

President.—What is the obstacle?

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—If there is any.

President.—Can you think of any?

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—I don't know.

(2) Something has to be done in the matter of jaggery also. The manufacture of jaggery is an industry which has to be encouraged, owing to its usefulness. It is a fact that hundreds of basket-loads of jaggery come into the State from Palghat and Quilon. Jaggery is an article of consumption in the State, and if this article is imported into the State from outside, that means drainage of so much money, and the deprivation of work and wages to several people in the State. Such a state of things should not be. I am, therefore, particular to see that all obstacles to the advancement of this industry should be removed. If the fee prescribed for tapping for jaggery is one, that must go. If there is any other obstacle, that must also go.

(3) One thing more. Last year I asked about the expediency of cultivating tobacco in the State. It has to be noted that the importation of tobacco from outside is another drain on the money of the State. It is a drain of several lakhs. How long are we to sit looking on? If it is not possible to do the whole thing now, let us at least make a beginning. One Mr. Doraswami Pillai once tried to cultivate tobacco in Chittur, and it proved a failure. That cannot be taken to be the end of the matter. Mr. Doraswami Pillai perhaps did not know how to do it, or perhaps, he did not do it properly, or it may be perhaps that Chittur was not suited for tobacco. Nobody can, with any authority, say whether tobacco can be grown in the State, anywhere in the State, and that successfully. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Chittur is the best place, a very suitable place, I mean parts adjoining Coimbatore.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Kojimampara is well fitted.

Mr. K. S. Rama Ayyar.—I, therefore, say that it is worth while experimenting. Under the existing conditions, people cannot do the experiment. I believe they are prohibited. But the Department of Agriculture can do it. If they try the experiment in all the different soils of the State, and come to the conclusion that it can be grown successfully, just fancy what a nice thing it will be. Tobacco will provide work and wages to a good number of people in the State. That is one advantage. Secondly, all the money that is drained out of the State on this one account will be kept in circulation here. The advantages are not trifling. And I think no time should be lost in starting the experiment. My conviction is it is, of course, a layman's conviction—it is that, if tobacco can grow in Kasargode and in Jaffna, it can be grown in Cochin also.

President.—We will now rise for lunch.

The House rose for lunch, it being 2 p. m. The sitting was resumed after an hour.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I support this motion for reduction. It seems to me that absolutely no principle underlies the levy of a license fee on what really forms a staple industry of the State. During the last 10 years tapping for jaggery has been steadily going down. Jaggery industry, if properly carried on, would provide means of living to hundreds of poor people in the State. Jaggery tappers mostly belong to the so-called backward classes, and we all have come to know of their present economic distress. It seems to me that this tax, or license fee as it is called, is practically intended to penalise this industry. A license fee which penalises an industry cannot be supported on any ground. While we are importing every year tons of sugar and jaggery from Coimbatore and Travancore, we are forcing this industry, which was once flourishing in this State, to die down. Of the injurious effects of a penalising tax, nothing more heart-rending can be imagined. Sir, I am aware that there are difficulties in the way of carrying out the suggestions of the members, to abandon the licensing system. Of course, the State gets a large income from the tapping of fermented toddy, and if the jaggery tappers resort to illicit tapping of fermented toddy, the revenue from that source may be affected. Sir, we have Panchayats in several parts of the State, in almost all the villages, and these bodies may be authorized to issue licenses to jaggery tappers, and if the Panchayats exert proper supervision, it is quite possible to control jaggery tapping in the State.

President.—Free licenses or what?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Panchayats may have to incur certain expenses on that score. Persons who are of good character may

be selected for issuing licenses, and the Panchayats are the best bodies for making the selection. Certainly, they are better qualified than the Aminadars who are very often new to their place, and who have to live upon the small pay that they receive from the Government. By adopting some such method of issuing licenses, I believe we shall be able to render some support to a staple industry in the State. Mr. Mathew pointed out that, while ten years ago the number of trees that were tapped for jaggery toddy was 20,000, it has now gone down to 7,000.

President.—You must not address him as Mr. Mathew, but you must address him as the Hon'ble Member for Kunnankulam.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I am very sorry. If the revenue has gone down—

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is not a fact. The revenue was never Rs. 20,000.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Would the Hon'ble Member give me the information? What was the number of trees tapped 10 years ago?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Member for Chakkudi stated that the revenue went down from 20,000 to 7,000.

President.—He did not say that. He referred only to the number of trees tapped.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Whatever that be, the number of trees tapped for jaggery has gone down. Let it be one or two or three. The number has gone down considerably. That shows that the industry has suffered much, and much money goes either to Travancore or British India. I do not think the proposition will be doubted that we are now using much more sugar and jaggery than 10 years ago. If that is a fact, the drain cannot be gauged merely from the reduction in the number of tapped trees.

President.—What jaggery are we using?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Something must be used. All like a good taste. That there is considerable drain on this account is certain. Why the Government should care for the small sum of Rs. 7,000 and allow this staple industry to perish, I cannot understand.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Sir, I rise to support this motion. Those who are engaged in this work of tapping either jaggery or fermented toddy are members of the Ezhuva community, and, therefore, this industry affects their welfare. We have been telling the members of my community to stop this profession.

Of course, when we say that they should stop this profession, what we mean is that they should not tap for sour toddy. Because what they produce has got a demoralising effect which affects the health of the society and also the morality of the society. There is a stigma attached to it, and we object to that trade. But if this can be converted into a useful industry without any such moral stigma, we will certainly uphold it. I must feel envious of the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri when he was addressed as the champion of tappers.

President.—You want to appropriate that title.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Not quite that. But I have the legitimate right for it. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I would very gladly hand it over to him. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Now, however, the Hon'ble Member may keep it for himself. My position is this. I support this motion, not because I think that my people will be in want of employment, if tapping is stopped. In fact, those who are engaged in tapping now are only about 3,000 people; I would say, between 3,000 or 4,000 in the whole State. Out of the two and a half lakhs of people of my community, there are only 3,000 or a little more who are engaged in tapping, and, therefore, it is only a very small percentage of Ezhuvas who are tappers. The rest of the people have other professions. And, therefore, if they stop tapping, and utilise the different other products of the cocoanut and palmyra trees alone, these men also can get enough work. There are ever so many industries which they can take to, even if the tapping industry is completely stopped. I do not think, therefore, that it will materially affect the condition of our people, if tapping is completely stopped. Of course, propaganda work has been going on everywhere throughout Travancore and Cochin, and to a considerable extent the number of tappers is decreasing year after year. A sort of social stigma is attached to the business of tapping. So I am not very anxious on that score that many of our people will be without any profession unless they tap. Of course, our object in advising the members of our community to stop tapping was, as I have already pointed out, because the fermented toddy that is produced has got an injurious and demoralising effect. Our Swami Sri Narayana Guru has issued, on a birthday occasion, a small pamphlet that, “മൂഢ വിചാരം, അതുണ്ടാക്കരുതെ, കൊടുക്കരുതെ, കുടിക്കരുതെ, മദ്യക്കാരന്റെ വീട്, നാദം, അവന്റെ ദേഹം നാദം, അവന്റെ വസ്ത്രം നാദം, അവൻ തൊട്ടതൊക്കെ നാദം.” Our people, therefore, condemn toddy and the toddy tapper. So this advice has been followed by my people with very great respect,

and there is considerable decrease in the number of tappers. In fact, there are only very few youngsters who take this profession now. If Ezhuvas, all of them as a class, would stop this tapping, I think no other community on earth would be able to continue that profession. It is such a difficult process --this climbing and tapping?

President.—Your objection is for tapping the trees for fermented toddy as well as for jaggery toddy?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—No, I object only to fermented toddy. That is exactly what I am going to point out. Although the profession has got a stigma, it is only because the product is bad, but tapping for jaggery, I think, is a very useful industry. And there would be absolutely no excuse for the Government to impose any impediment in the way of tapping for jaggery. Sir, probably it may be argued that it would be a very difficult thing to detect illicit cases. Sweet toddy or jaggery is produced by adding a little *chunnam* to fermented toddy just when it is purchased. If this is omitted, the toddy becomes sour toddy, and the detective officers of the Excise Department may not be able to find out the trick played by the tappers. That, I think, might be one of the objections, which would be urged against allowing free tapping of sweet toddy broadcast. But my submission is that the same difficulty is felt in the British parts, as well as in Travancore, and there they are able to check it effectively. If our Excise policy which was said to be the same as in British parts is properly followed here, I do not think there can be any difficulty in regard to detection. Our detective force is efficient enough, I suppose. The Hon'ble Member for Excise will bear with me, when I say that we have an efficient detective force here, and they will be in a position to detect illicit cases, and therefore, that argument cannot hold good.

I know several instances of the members of my community who have been following this profession of tapping for a long time, and, because of the social stigma that is attached to it, had to give it up. If the tapping of sweet toddy is allowed freely, they will be able to divert their activity towards it, and even the remotest possibility of unemployment in the community may be saved. So it will bring about an improvement in the material welfare of my community as well as a revival of the old industry that is gradually dying out. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that this industry should be encouraged without imposing any fee for license. Even if we impose only a small fee, that will also be a serious impediment. Tapping for sweet toddy is not so very profitable as it would be to tap for sour toddy, and that is why some of these tappers remove the *chunnam* so that the

product may be converted into fermented toddy which will be a little more costly. So I inform this House that it is absolutely necessary to do away with the license fee completely. Otherwise, even if a small fee is imposed, there will be some difficulty for the tappers to tap for sweet toddy. I would, therefore, urge that this House will unanimously vote in respect of this cut.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I support the general policy underlying this motion. There are two questions involved in this motion. One is doing away with the license altogether, and the other is doing away with the fees. I support the second position—taking away the fees.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have no objection for keeping up licenses.

President.—Licenses must be issued, that is to say, only those licensees should be allowed to tap, and they should not be burdened with any fees. That is the point.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Licenses are required so that the department might be in touch with the tappers and also to prevent illicit tapping. And as to the suggestion put forward by the Hon'ble Member for Chalakudi that the duty of issuing licenses should be entrusted to the Panchayats, I do not think that would be an effective check.

President.—What all sorts of things are we going to entrust with the Panchayats? In fact, for everything, we have to resort to Panchayats.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is a sort of thing which has been contemplated by ideal Panchayats.

President.—They are the units of self-government.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I do not know whether this departure comes under the various activities of self-government.

President.—Let them do the work assigned to them now.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—This work should be undertaken, I believe, in a different spirit from which the discussions are being carried on here. It should be taken as a separate department. A sugar refinery may be introduced in Cochin; I think that the question may be referred to the Economic Development Committee.

President.—Mr. Matthai, have you thought of the question as to what all subjects should be brought within the scope of your Committee?

Mr. C. Matthai.—We have not yet formulated any plan. I shall make a note of this.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The sugar refinery industry always implies other considerations also. Only if the

by-products could be utilised to make some other products, the refinery could be worked as a profitable concern. That must be treated as a substantial question to be decided by the Economic Development Committee. I do not believe in the suggestion that, by having more trees to tap for sweet-toddy, we will be diminishing the drink evil.

President.—One question I want to ask you. Is it not the case that a good deal of jaggery is being brought from outside into the State, and would it not be an effective check to such importation if we allow our own people to manufacture jaggery?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is exactly what I mean. As a check on the drink evil, I think it will be no remedy, so long as there is desire in man to drink.

President.—Are not the two things independent?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is exactly what I wish to bring to your notice. The suggestion has been made that, if we allow free tapping for jaggery, there will be an indirect check upon drinking. I do not agree with that point.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What I want is that the license should be taken away. I fear I cannot prove what I am going to say. Licenses should be entirely taken away. Those who are willing to tap must be given the right of tapping.

President.—Should it not be controlled by the Excise Department?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—That must be controlled by the Excise Department.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—How is the Superintendent to know the palmyra trees which are tapped for jaggery, unless a license is issued as to which particular tree he is tapping?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—There is a great difficulty in getting the license forms.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The Superintendent has got ready forms. If the Ezhuva wants a form, he has to pay something. When it is taken to the Taluk Office, there also he has to pay something. If you take away the license, this difficulty could be done away with.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Sir, from the discussion before this House, it would be found that there is a lot of difference of opinion as to how to approach this matter; e. g., as to whether the fee should be given up or whether the licenses should be given up or both, whether it should be done by the Superintendent of Excise or by the Panchayat. The details of working of all these are before the Excise Committee, and they are going

into this matter, and it will be impossible for this House to come to a conclusion even from the speeches of the Hon'ble Members who spoke on the subject. I think it will not be right for this House, especially when the Government have appointed an Excise Committee, to take away their right altogether to dispose of one matter. These are indeed questions which will be carefully considered by the Excise Committee. I think the Hon'ble Members for Kunnankulam and the Ezhuva Constituency are also members of the Excise Committee. We will, therefore, drop the whole question here for the present, and place it before the Excise Committee. I think it is premature for us to give a correct decision now.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—One word of explanation, Sir. The Excise Committee is appointed by the Government, and whatever proposals may be submitted to the Government, there is no guarantee that they will come up for discussion in this House.

President.—It is not an explanation. You are making a statement by way of explanation. I must stop you. The subject should be discussed by the Excise Committee.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It would take a long time for the Committee to submit their Report to the Government, and it would also take a long time to the Government to issue orders, after considering the Report.

President.—Suppose we put the motion to this House. Even then, since it is under the investigation of the Excise Committee, we will have to wait for the Report of that Committee before we issue final orders in this matter.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—People are losing about 2 lakhs of rupees per year.

President.—Whatever may be the recommendations of the Excise Committee on this matter, I think that, so far as this particular matter is concerned, it is quite possible, having regard to the non-official opinion here, to give effect to it, and not to lay the matter before Excise Committee.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Because, otherwise it is a heavy loss to the people.

President.—Of course, that is what I was able to know. In British Malabar they do not levy fees.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In Travancore also there is no fees, but there the system of marking and licensing of trees prevails. In the Agency Tracts of the Madras Presidency also, this system prevails.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There is the same process in British Malabar also.

President.—So far as enquiries have been made, wherever free tapping is permitted, this jaggery industry has increased to a considerable extent, and is it your opinion that a good lot of jaggery is being imported from outside?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Jaggery has not been imported here. On the other hand, the arrack supply contractor gets his jaggery, not from Palghat but from Coimbatore.

President.—That is sugar-cane jaggery. What I ask is palmyra jaggery.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Sometimes, palmyra jaggery too is imported for the purposes of distillation.

President.—Supposing we want to encourage that industry, and we allow these people to tap without fees. Is there not a chance of this industry being promoted thereby, and is there not an equal chance of the people of British Malabar and Travancore bringing their own jaggery here?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Travancore jaggery is not brought here. From the British frontiers of Chittur, jaggery is brought to our frontier markets of Kolinjampara for sale.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Also from Vadakkancheri side to Trichur.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—This is palmyra jaggery which is not obtainable at Trichur.

President.—But the other is cocoanut jaggery.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There is very little sale for cocoanut jaggery.

President.—At any rate, if we allow Chittur people free tapping, what would be the case?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Jaggery is being imported from Travancore and British Malabar.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—As a matter of fact, it is.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Jaggery, of course, cane jaggery is also jaggery.

President.—Sugar-cane jaggery I know. That is not under discussion now. The discussion is with regard to palmyra and other jaggery.

പ്രസിഡൻ്റ്.—മിസ്റ്റർ കത്തുമുഹമ്മദ്, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തെങ്ങിൻചക്കര കൊണ്ട് കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ കുച്ചവടം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കത്തുമുഹമ്മദ്.—ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് മലബാറിൽനിന്നല്ലാ അധികമായി കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നു. കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിന്നുംതന്നെയാണു് അവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു് കുച്ചവടം ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ചൈസൻസു് വെച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ ആളുകൾക്കു തെങ്ങു ചെത്തി ചക്കര ഉണ്ടാക്കി വിൽക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണു് ഇവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദു്.—ചൈസൻസു് ആളുകൾക്കു് ഉപദ്രവതന്നേയാണു് (*Laughter*), അതു് ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഉപദ്രവം ഇല്ലെന്നു പറവാൻ ഞാൻ ആക്കുമില്ല. (*Laughter*).

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—ഇവിടത്തന്നെ ചക്കര ധാരാളമായി ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തുടങ്ങിയാൽ പുറംരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി വിൽക്കാൻ തരപ്പെടുമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദു്.—ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയാലും പുറംരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയാൽ ചിലവാകുന്ന കാര്യം സംശയമാണു്. കാരണം അവിടങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ധാരാളമായി ഉണ്ടാക്കിവരുന്നതുതന്നെയാണു്.

പ്രസിഡെണ്ടു്.—അവിടെ കൊണ്ടുപോയി ചിലവാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിലും അവിടേനിന്നു കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനെ നിർത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുഞ്ഞുമുഹമ്മദു്.—അതു സാധിച്ചേയ്ക്കാം. ഞാൻ അതിനപ്പുറം സൂക്ഷ്മമായി ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. (*Laughter*.)

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I do not think cocoanut jaggery is exported from here to places in Malabar where there is no sufficient cocoanut jaggery.

President.—We are levying tax for taking cocoanut jaggery from one place to another, and licenses are to be obtained for it.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I propose that the question may now be put.

President.—We have not finished the discussion, and when one Member wants information, should we not furnish it?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—So many demands are remaining, and the days are limited.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—This is also an important demand.

President.—We shall confine our attention to important points. I fail to see why consideration should not be given to a point raised by a non-official Member in this matter. What is the allotment?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Rs. 8,000, Sir.

President.—It is only to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion that I am carrying on the discussion, as the House is divided on this matter. It is only a demand made in one direction. Do you want to press your motion now?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It is only a token motion, and I wish for a reduction of Re. 1.

President.—I am sure the Excise Committee will move in this matter. In Travancore and British India, duties are imposed on industries when the industry is a large one, and people are considerably benefited, and the revenue derived is considerable. Why not we accept the motion and close the matter? It is, after all, a token motion.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is not understood why the Hon'ble Member for Kunnankulam referred to trees tapped for jaggery only in the years 1096, 1097 and 1098. From 1099 onwards, including this year, there has been a steady rise. In 1099, the number was 22,193, in 1100, 22,360, and in 1101, it is 22,604.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I referred to the figures of 1096.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I explained before this House during the last session that, till 1098, the tax for jaggery tapping in the Northern and Southern Taluks was the same as that for tapping fermented toddy in the Southern Taluks, namely, 4 as. per palmyra tree, 6 as. per cocoanut tree and 8 as. per sago palm. It was from 1098 that the tax for tapping fermented toddy in the Southern Taluks began to be raised. At that time, since the tax for tapping fermented toddy was raised, there was a great misuse of jaggery toddy. A Census was, therefore, taken by the then Superintendent side by side with the granting of licenses, and it was resolved that the granting of licenses would be restricted to *bona fide* tappers. That is why in 1098 there was a fall in the number of trees from 26,877 to 21,400. From that year till now there was a steady increase. So it is not correct to say that the jaggery industry has been killed on account of the imposition of this small tax. In Travancore, there is the system of marking and licensing, but no fee is levied. Even in the absence of the fee, the number of trees licensed there for jaggery toddy in 1099 was only 831 cocoanut trees, 225 palmyra trees and 78 sago palms, except in a few Southern Taluks where there is abundance of palmyra trees, and where unfettered tapping is allowed. With the exception of these few taluks, throughout the whole of Travancore there is the system of marking and granting of licenses. From the *Administration Report of Travancore for 1099* we see that this small number of trees tapped for jaggery is not due to any refusal to grant licenses for the manufacture of sweet toddy. Here, on the other hand, we find that in 1099, 6,258 cocoanut trees, 7,729 palmyra trees and 8,211 sago palms were tapped for sweet toddy. So it is not correct to say that the imposition of a tax has smothered the jaggery industry.

President.—Suppose we grant free licenses and increase the number of trees for tapping sweet toddy, what would be the result?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That remains to be seen. The Member for the Ezhuva Constituency (South) seems to think that the tapping for fermented toddy is more profitable than that for sweet toddy. It is doubtful, therefore, whether there is any likelihood of an increase in the number of trees tapped by the abolition of the tax.

President.—My point is that we should try to adjust ourselves to the policy pursued elsewhere in this matter. Why not we follow that policy here also? Why can't we do away with the levying of fees for licensing and marking and put this into force from next year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There is no objection, Sir. Only some rules require to be changed.

President.—Even then licenses have to be issued. At present, much difficulty and inconvenience is said to have been experienced by the poor people in the matter of getting licenses. How can these difficulties be solved?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—To get rid of this we have to increase the pay of the Aminadars. In the Madras Presidency and in Travancore the officers who correspond to our Aminadars are given a salary of Rs. 60—90 and Rs. 60—80 respectively. But here they are given only a pay of Rs. 15—40.

President.—The marking and licensing system may be retained, and the levying of fees may be dispensed with. What is the amount derived in the shape of fees annually?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In 1099 it was Rs. 7,000 and odd, and in 1100 it was Rs. 8,000 and odd. This year it is even more. It depends upon the number of trees. The number of trees has increased this year, when compared with last year, and this is the reason for the increase of fee.

President.—Try to find out the means of dispensing with the existing fee from next year onwards, i. e., from 1102. Do you want to press the motion?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—An assurance from the Government is enough. The Government can accept the motion, and also can dispense with the fee according to its discretion.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Who will issue licenses?

President.—Of course, the Superintendent will issue them. These are all matters which were discussed once. The Superintendent will take the necessary safeguards to see that the poor people are not inconvenienced in any way.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—The trouble felt by the people in rural parts is greater.

President.—All that is possible will be done. The low-paid officers may not be thoroughly honest, because sometimes they have to do overwork. It is a plain fact. In Travancore and the Madras Presidency, there is no fee. As far as possible, our policy shall be to adjust ourselves to that policy. From 1102 we shall set it right, and give up the licensing fee. The matter may now be dropped.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Ever since 1880 we have been trying to introduce this rule into our State. We differ from Travancore and Malabar in this respect alone. I recommend this to the notice of the Excise Committee.

President.—I think we can make a note of this. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar may submit the necessary proposals. Have we done with all the motions?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—On point of information, Sir, has the Excise Committee considered the question of the removal of liquor shops from the side of public roads?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It will be taken into consideration.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then I withdraw my motion.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I want only to bring one point. I do not find adequate steps taken by the department to reduce the consumption of liquor. It is very injurious to the health of the people. I have no objection to the using of toddy by working classes, as toddy is considered useful by workmen to preserve their health after work. Perhaps, this suggestion may be a nuisance to those who have been living in the atmosphere of modern Prohibition. The evil habit of drinking is developing. This is injurious to the economic prosperity of a country which depends upon the vital energy of its people. Labour should be organised, as it is essential to the well-being as well as to the revenue of the State. We should take immediate steps to see that the quantity of arrack manufactured is reduced. Last year, I voted in favour of a motion to reduce the quantity of liquor manufactured. I believe that I do not find any appreciable reduction in the quantity manufactured this year. Unless the Excise Department pursues a separate policy in curbing this evil, the problem cannot be solved.

President.—I do not know how far it is possible to carry this policy into effect.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—It can be easily done Sir. There is no use of a policy, unless it is materialised.

President.—It is very difficult to carry out this policy, as we will have to influence the people to refrain from it.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—It can be very easily materialised. The problem can be solved by restricting the quantity supplied from the Government Distillery and by limiting the sale.

President.—Supposing we were to reduce the output, then there will be the same cry from the people that they have not got enough arrack. What are we to do?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—There will be no such cry. I strongly emphasise that only a limited quantity should be supplied to the shop keepers.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—On a point of information, Sir, I would like to know whether in 1102 the number of shops are intended to be reduced, and if so, by how many.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—11 toddy shops and 10 arrack shops have been reduced.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I should like to know whether the rule in regard to the closing of arrack shops during certain hours of the night is enforced in all cases or whether exemptions are given from time to time.

President.—Sometimes, in the case of fairs and festivals, it is given.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sometimes shops are seen kept open at midnight.

President.—Sometimes the time of closing will be prolonged.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I understand that this rule is honoured more in the breach than in the observance.

President.—Any how, the department is doing its best to enforce the rules. This House expressed clearly this view. The consumption will be reduced, as far as possible.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The point raised is whether the opening of shops in thoroughfares and keeping them open during the late hours of the night would be a temptation to the public. There is one more point, on which I want information, and that is whether temporary shops are allowed to be opened in Cranganur during the Bharani days.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes. They are allowed for 10 or 12 days.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—They are only occasional shops.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't find any necessity for these temporary shops. Our point is that the Government is attracting the people to take to drink by opening shops in thoroughfares and allowing them to be kept open till very late in the

night. And then, when a festival takes place, shops are opened in the locality, and that is an attraction for the people to drink. We complained about this during the last budget discussion.

President.—Is it your point that we should not open these shops?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes, Sir.

President.—Then, what will be the situation?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Even if there are no shops, as British territory is very close by, illicit liquor will come from there. When the Bharani festival is going on in Cranganur, several people also make illicit liquor.

President.—Moreover, there are many Travancore and British liquor shops situated on the frontier.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Let it be supplied by some other Government. Why should our Government help on drinking in any way.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Of course, a Committee has been appointed which will consider this point also.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member for Anglo-Indians in saying that toddy is absolutely necessary for the health of the poor people. I say it is a detrimental thing to all, whether it be to a cooly or to a rich man.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I did not say that it is absolutely necessary. I only said it is healthy to the working classes.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—The best thing will be to completely abstain from liquor, as far as possible. Of course, it has been the work of the tappers of my community to supply toddy and arrack. But things have begun to improve, as they have begun to realise its dangerous consequences, and have begun, themselves, to discourage it. It will be a source of gratification to me, if the Government also contribute their mite towards this work of social progress. If the Government would lessen the issuing of the number of licenses year after year, it will decrease the number of trees tapped. This will be accelerating the movement already started by the social workers, and that would be beneficial, not only for the amelioration of the Ezhuva community, but also for the moral uplift of the population at large. Sir, there is a great deal of difference between the policy of total Prohibition and that of maximum revenue out of minimum consumption. Total abstinence, and not maximum production and maximum revenue, should be our criterion. When the aim is minimum quantity and to get maximum revenue, the revenue remains stationary, and the evil is not eradicated. Year after year, there will be, no doubt, a decrease in the quantity produced. The aim of the

Government should be to completely do away with this evil and to keep the revenue stationary, since there will be this drink evil ever standing. I do not think that drink is a necessity for man. It is true that the drink evil cannot be stopped all on a sudden in a day or two. But this can be stopped completely gradually, if we have that aim in view. Those who are not addicted to drink are not first attracted. It has got a repulsive smell, and it is with considerable difficulty that a person first tries the experiment. Nature has also provided necessary safeguards for avoiding it. A man takes in liquor at first by closing his nose and with considerable difficulty. When once it is swallowed, it gets a hold on the man. In course of time, an artificial craving is created in the mind of the man. He succumbs to it, and at last the person becomes a drunkard. In course of time, it becomes difficult for him to abstain totally from it or to get rid of his habit. But I do not say it is impossible to abstain from it. If this point of total Prohibition is kept in view by the Government, there will, no doubt, be a considerable decrease in the revenue. Perhaps, it would be better for the Government to do away with the money received through this unholy means. The Government should try to bring about this total Prohibition in the State, even at the risk of a few lakhs of rupees. Fresh sources of revenue will have to be tapped by the Government to make up this deficiency. If the drink evil is done away with, a great deal of money can be saved from our jails and hospitals. On the whole, it will not be a loss to the State. I would strongly request the House, therefore, to reduce the number of tapping trees, as far as possible. There is, no doubt, a small decrease in the number of shops, but this reduction is very small and not enough. Still more reduction should be made in the number of trees and in the number of shops, and new shops should not be allowed to be opened in places where a public festival or anything of that sort is going on.

As it was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Chalakudi, it is there that the greatest demoralising effect to its intensity is noticed. I would request the Government never to allow any shops to be opened in any place during any festival. We should not also have shops in towns. Of course, the experiment was tried successfully in Ernakulam, and probably, you may say there may be illicit traffic of liquor; but such thing would go on everywhere, and this is due to want of proper control. With better check, it can be got over. The removal of the shops was found to be a very great success. In the public thoroughfares; if these shops are opened, it will be a great nuisance. I repeat that it has been a great success at Ernakulam. I suppose the Government will adopt the same policy in other towns, and

order to remove them outside the town. In the case of the drunkards who are addicted to the liquor, only when they see shops, they will have the temptation to drink, or at any rate, the temptation becomes irresistible, and they succumb to it. I hope that the Government will take immediate action in this direction to combat this evil.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I do not wish to make a long speech. But the House will be surprised, if they will listen to some of the figures I have to quote. Before Prohibition was introduced in America the number of illicit distilleries was growing by leaps and bounds. In the year 1919, the number was 2,478.

In	1922	it was	95,933,
"	1923	"	95,132.
"	1924	"	1,59,176.

From 2,478 in the year 1919, it rose to 1,59,176 in 1924. The increase in figures over 4 years is from 2,500 to 1,60,000. Now, the volume of liquor confiscated has risen from 7,53,740 gallons to 157,86,580, that is to say, 100 per cent. This is the increase in four years' time. These are the figures officially given, and the House will be surprised to hear that. I am interested in the subject, and that is why I quoted these figures. I am not exactly a Temperance preacher, nor do I believe that alcohol is very dangerous to the human system. Yet, certainly, there are many points that ought to be considered. The Government must consider that this is an industry upon which moderate calculations must be made. 16,300 trees are being tapped per year. From the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, I received the figures. At the most it will come 3,000 people who are engaged in this industry, and putting another 3,000 people in the middle, that will come to about 6,000.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—No speculation is necessary. 17,000 is the actual number of people dependent solely on this industry.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Alright, 17,000 people. Now then; the Government ought to consider the hardships that will be placed upon these people who depend upon this industry, and they do not seem to realise that it is also a duty. They may be absorbed in some other way. If we do not do that, what happens is that these people will be put to great difficulty. There is no use of their activities. Further, they are not trained in any other work. It is one point.

Now, to the question of Prohibition. Prohibition did not decrease crime. Crime and drunkenness, while decreasing in England, were increasing in the United States. In the United States 11 thousand murders were committed last year. The drink evil

is on the increase among the student population of the United States. In a single college, all except two were reported to be drunkards.

Prohibition encourages a contempt for law, because you are imposing a law which, in the nature of things, people are bound to disobey. Once they begin to disobey the law, there is no end as to which particular law they will disobey, and which particular one they will not. I am just giving you a quotation from the Report of the Federal Committee of the Churches of the Christ of America. This body was strongly in favour of Prohibition, and took an active part in this direction. Their enquiries have been among the poor. They can get any quality and any quantity as they like. Drinking illicit liquor is the worst of it. That is not a crime in America. Drinking illicit liquor has a decided effect on the mental condition of a drinker. It increases lunacy among the drunkards. Certain kinds of diseases also increase. These were the opinions they came to on this question. Last year the question of Prohibition was taken up here, and we need not discuss it now: At the auction time, you take a certain area, and ask the people: "Are you in favour of this Prohibition or are you not?" Two questions are involved in this one that is before us. You introduce this system in a selected area. There are certain requisite qualifications necessary for those who take part in this work. One is that they must be well-educated, and must understand what they are doing, must have a political and social consciousness to take part in these proceedings. But, as you know, an advance to such an extent is very difficult, and the result is that they take part in this work without considering one way or the other. This shows that a referendum will have the desired effect only in educated countries. What we can understand is that those who are elected will come and sit together and discuss and settle these matters, hear both sides and decide the case.

There are three parties to this question. One, the Temperance reformer to whom it is a faith. Faith is not always the basis of reason, and there is the other party who thinks that life without drink is a misery. (*Laughter.* To him almost all arguments are of no use. There is the third party—the majority party, to which party I belong—to whom you can address your arguments which would be of no value to them. Those people, the third party, do not take the trouble to recall their wrong actions in one way or the other. It devolves upon the activity of a Temperance minority or the drinking minority. If you introduce a principle like this, I think it will do some good. I may

as well ask:—"Will you introduce it?" As you know, it is objectionable to Muhammadans. If a referendum is introduced in Cranganur, where we have a Muhammadan majority, I think everybody there will vote against this drink. Let us take the case of Chalakkudi where we have a Hindu majority. Suppose we introduce a referendum there, I think it will be very difficult. In all these matters the manner of introducing this referendum is the question that arises. That is very difficult of solution. The only way in which this problem can be solved is by entrusting this power to local authorities such as Municipalities with power to adopt Local Option in their respective areas. All the necessary conditions are obtainable, because you have a body who can discuss the arguments of the other party that has also the power, being the representatives of their constituents. Therefore, we can introduce this system, though only in the Municipal areas for the time being, if it is impossible to introduce it in the rural areas. With these few observations, I wish to urge upon the Government that the matter may be considered in detail.

President.—Now, the question before the House is that the Demand for Rs. 3·25 lakhs under No. 6—Excise—be granted.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—A point of order, Sir. Mr. Raman has withdrawn the motion.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I thought the Hon'ble Member for the Anglo-Indians pressed the motion, and I only spoke in that connection.

President.—Have you anything to say about the other motions? I thought the opinion of the House is divided with regard to one particular motion; I am now putting the Demand to the vote of the House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The views expressed by the Hon'ble Member for Irinjalakkuda do not go unchallenged. This House, I think, agrees with certain views he expressed. Of course, I am only satisfied with them. I do not subscribe to many of the figures given by him, because none of these American figures can be accepted. They publish their own figures.

President.—We are not concerned with anything that is prevailing in America; and nobody who has spoken on the motion has gone there. He supplied certain figures.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—A word of explanation, Sir. Last time a motion for a cut of one rupee was passed, and the Member for Irinjalakkuda expressed certain views from which nobody disagreed. It is, therefore, that I said this.

President.—All the cut motions have now been discussed, and I think I may now put the Demand to the vote of the House. The Demand was then put to votes and carried.

President.—The next Demand is "Stamps"

Demand VII—Stamps—64 lakh.

Motions Nos. 49 and 50.

Mr. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 64,800 under "Stamps" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 64,800 under "Stamps" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of rupees 64,800. There is nothing striking to require explanation except that a sum of rupees 432 has been provided under "Temporary establishment" for the entertainment of four counters for six months to count the stamp papers received this year. It will have to be paid next year. I request that the Council will be pleased to sanction the amount.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—A point of order. On page 28, stamps commission on the court-fee stamps—Rs. 11,000 is put as non-votable. I do not know how it became so. These are not obligatory under any law.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The amount is to be paid as commission to the stamp vendors under the Stamp Regulation.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The law fixes the commission that is to be given.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—A point of information. The purchase of stamps and stamp papers involves an expenditure of Rs. 40,000. I suppose that is the amount paid to Messrs Dickinson & Co.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Can we not at least make an attempt to manufacture the stamps and stamp papers here?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Finance Committee is looking into the matter. We were manufacturing stamps and stamp papers till the time of Sir. A. R. Banerji, and it was he who arranged with Messrs. Dickinson & Co. This point was raised before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Then, why was it given up?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No reason has been assigned. The Company was given the contract.

President.—Mr. Achyuta Menon may be able to enlighten us on the point.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon—Sir A. R. Banerji suspected there might be room for fraud. Stamp papers, especially, copying papers, were introduced. The quantity to be manufactured became so very large that a check on fraud was found to be very difficult. The finish of the papers was also not satisfactory.

President.—It is a matter to be looked into. Let us wait and see.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Last year also I raised this point. I do not know whether the Government has since looked into the matter or not.

President.—Whether that will be the state of things now we cannot say. It was during the time of Sir A. R. Banerji.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Have we not honest men here?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—When the Special Finance Committee was organised, the matter has been again taken up.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—My motion is only to draw the attention of the Government to this, and I now withdraw it. The Demand was put to the votes and carried.

President.—The next demand is No. 8—"Customs."

Demand VIII—Customs—'04 lakh.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Sir, I rise to move that a grant of Rs. 4,070 be sanctioned under "Customs". There is no increase for the next year. I have no special remarks to offer.

Motion No. 51.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 4070 under Customs by one rupee.*

President.—There is Mr. Salem's out motion, he is absent. The Demand was put to votes and carried.

Demand IX—Forests—Rs. 1.84 lakhs.

Motions Nos. 52 to 57.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,34,664 under "Conservancy and works" by one rupee.*

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,888 for Office Establishment, etc., by one rupee.*

Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 68,376 for Salaries and Establishment by Rs. 25,600.*

Mr. C. N. Itiravi Nambudiri.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,04,600 under "Forests" by one rupee.*

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,04,600 under "Forests" by Rs. 20,000.*

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,04,600 under "Forests" by Rs. 5,000.*

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Sir, I rise to ask for a demand of Rs. 1,84,824 for No. 9—Forests. The main headings of the expenditure are :—

(1) Rs. 78,450 for timber and other produce removed by Sirkar agency;

(2) Rs. 5,380 for timber and other produce removed by consumers or purchasers;

(3) Rs. 100—confiscated forest produce;

(4) Rs. 1,025—purchase of stores;

(5) Rs. 13,624—purchase of elephants, their capture, training, feeding and treatment;

(6) Rs. 5,895—communication and buildings;

(7) Rs. 3,000—demarcation, survey, compensation for lands and rights;

(8) Rs. 12,000—sowing and planting;

(9) Rs. 11,290—other works, etc;

(10) Rs. 3,900—miscellaneous;

(11) Rs. 48,600—establishment, etc.;

I give below an explanation for such of the above as require one.

(1) Rs. 78,450 is required to extract timber and bring it down to the market. We expect an income thereby of Rs. 3,01,400. 4,600 candies of timber are to be cut and brought down; 12,000 candies of timber are to be loaded into Tram trucks and brought down, and 13,000 candies to be railed to Ernakulam. Besides the above, the following items are also included in the sum of Rs. 78,450 :—

(a) supply of sleepers and fuel to the Tramway Department;

(b) refund of retention money held back of contractors;

(c) Onam presents to jungle tribes;

(d) thinning and collection of saplings from Teak plantations, etc.;

(e) Pay of depot watchers.

(2) Rs. 5,380 under "consumers and purchasers" include clearing boundaries of coupes, marking trees for felling, commission to permit issuing officers and pay of *tannahdars*, etc.

Prior to 1075 the expenditure of the Forest Department was not classified under various heads. Since 1075 such classifications were introduced. Following the British system, the pay of *tannahdars* came to be classified under "consumers or purchasers".

Under this head a revenue of Rs. 1,42,450 is expected to be realised.

(3) The amount of Rs. 100 classed under "Confiscation" is expected to bring in a revenue of Rs. 1,000.

(4) "Purchase of stores" includes purchase of a cyclo-style machine, making of furniture, elephant chains and repair to elephant chains.

(5) Under "elephants" come the digging of elephant pits, their covering and watching, capturing and training of elephants, their annual treatment and treatment when they get sick.

(6) "Communication and buildings" include repairs to the Padheyaram Kraal, flooring the Chemony Kraal, roofing the Kuriarkutti Kraal, dismantling and rebuilding Palapilli Kalamara, repairs to the Ernakulam Depot tank bund, digging of two wells and the usual P. C. R. works.

(7) The expenditure under "demarcation, etc.," includes valuation of the forest growth of exclusions and clearing of the boundary lines between the State and foreign territory forests.

(8) "Sowing and planting" include the maintenance of the existing plantation of about 1,200 acres and the opening up of about 700 acres of new plantations.

(9) "Other works—Rs. 11,290" includes the pay of watchers.

(10) "Miscellaneous—Rs. 3,900" include uniforms to Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards and warm clothing to subordinates in malarial tracts.

(11) Rs. 48,600 is for establishment, excluding the non-votable items.

"Establishment" comes to Rs. 48,600. "Forest Dispensary"—1,555, total Rs. 1,84,824. Under "establishment of Conservator; no remarks are needed. Similarly, of Divisional Officers' establishments. Then, there is leave allowance, temporary staff, etc. Watchers come under the temporary staff. Then come purchase and repair of furniture, cleaning charges, rents of buildings rented, Telegraph and hostel charges.

President.—How do you explain this "Miscellaneous"?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Uniforms for Rangers, Foresters and Guards.

President.—The whole of that is the cost of cloth to be supplied?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Warm clothing for special tracts is also included in that.

President.—Any information wanted on any point?

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Page 32, there is temporary staff.

President.—Field clerks, lascars and all that.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Watchers also. We have got 15 watchers on Rs. 10 each, 21 watchers at Rs. 9 each and 36 watchers on Rs. 8 each.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—There are no watchers here included in the temporary staff.

President.—Watchers also are included in that. Under what head does it come?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Under the temporary staff.

President.—In the temporary staff you have given heads only for 2 field clerks (30 *plus* 10), 2 lascars (8 *plus* 4) and leave allowance.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—That is a mistake. Both under the same heading. Lascars only two. Their pay does not come to so much.

President.—All these are temporary? How many watchers are there? Can you give details?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Yes. Watchers—15 on Rs. 10 each.

President.—How much does it come to?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Rs. 1,800.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Then, 21 watchers on Rs. 9.

President.—That comes to?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Rs. 2,268.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—42 on Rs. 8.

President.—That will come to?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Rs. 4,032.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—For the special tracts, the watchers are allowed a fixed allowance of 50 per cent.

President.—How much?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It comes to Rs. 8,000.

President.—That appears to be a good figure. How much of this do you pay? That is a point to be known.

You don't seem to have a good throat.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—He can't talk. Bad throat.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Yes, sir. Bad throat.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, I want to know what the temporary staff is for.

President.—Rs. 8,000 comes for watchers. The details are not known.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—It also includes a subordinate executive staff shown above the temporary staff.

President.—Foresters, guards and mahouts. They are different. That also is included in that amount.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—There is no separate total put. That is a mistake.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No, no.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The temporary staff costs only Rs. 1,248. Watchers are included in this amount of Rs. 18,168.

President.—So that what will be the figure for the first four items?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The totals have been made, including the figures for the first four items—Rs. 19,014.

President.—After number 17, a separate total must be given; that is, above field clerks, lascars, leave allowance, etc. Read the total here.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Rs. 19,014. These figures are not correct.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The total above the clerks would come to Rs. 16,920.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—So, under "subordinate executive staff"—16,920, and "temporary staff", that is, field clerks and lascars—Rs. 1,248, and then, "leave allowance"—Rs. 846, you get this total, Rs. 19,014.

President.—That is how the matter stands. Any further information wanted?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I brought to the notice of the Government some draft rules about the B-forms, as I pointed out in the general discussion, to the notice of the Council.

President.—What is it that is wanted?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—These draft rules were published. Whether they were actually taken into consideration—that is what I want to know.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—These draft rules were published in the Gazette for public criticisms for modification of the old rules. They have not been taken up. They are still under the consideration of the Government. They will be taken up in the course of next year.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Is it necessary to spend money every year for the digging of new pits for the capture of elephants?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—After two or three years, old pits have to be left open. Every year we must have new pits.

President.—Suppose we dig one pit. How long can it be allowed to remain there?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Till it is damaged by the elephant falling in it. Otherwise, it is for ever. But even then, after 3 years, in certain localities, we leave them uncovered. The elephants get accustomed to the locality, and they don't go there, if we leave them open all the time. After 3 or 4 years

we again cover them. So, we will have to dig new pits every year.

President.—Now, we shall take up the discussion of motions. There are, in all, 6 cut motions, of which 3 are detailed motions.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I tabled this motion just to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulty of the people of Nemmara and Chittur for transshipment of firewood, just to draw the attention of the Government, while they are revising the rules; and to alleviate the suffering, something may be done in that direction.

President.—That is to say, what are the difficulties now felt by them?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Just to get the B-form permit itself.

President.—They have not to pay anything for the forms, just like these licenses for tapping.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not that. The Forester has to countersign that. He may be in one place or another. When he is in Chittur, if the people of Nemmara want to transship firewood for cremation, they will have to take the dead body to the place where the firewood is. That is the greatest hardship.

President.—How can we prevent this?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We must do away with the policy of countersignature by the Forest Officer.

President.—Have such alterations been made in the draft rules published? Should they be freely allowed to transport firewood?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—They must be, from their own *parambas*. Even for that, transporting passes have to be countersigned, and the countersignature will be done only after enquiry, specifying so many things, place, number of trees cut, etc. And finally, it goes to the Forest Guard, and if the Guard is not in favour, we can know more or less what would be the state of things. They would not be able even to cook their food. In addition to that, cremation is the greatest thing. No man can say when an accidental death might occur, and if they want firewood for cremation, then, all these tedious processes have to be gone through.

President.—Is that a difficulty, particularly confined to Nemmara?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Other places also. Greatly, at Nemmara. In Chittur, we have got firewood; we can purchase firewood. In Nemmara, each man has to cut his own fuel.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—In Nemmara also you can purchase.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We might get. In rainy seasons, we don't get firewood. And especially, when we have our own firewood, why should we purchase?

President.—In the revision of the draft rules, were you aware of these hardships?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Secretary also comes from Nemmara. He knows it. Now, he is a permanent resident of Ernakulam. Perhaps, he may not feel the difficulty now.

President.—What is the provision made in the revised rules?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Except in certain localities, where there are small Reserve Forests, we are doing away with it—this countersignature system—not only in Nemmara, but all over the country—in the Talappalli Taluk, etc.

President.—And in what stage are these rules now?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The rules were published on 12th September. Some correspondence was going on. That will be finished in about a month's time.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I have to bring to the notice of the Council the hardships to which the Nemmara people are put to. That is all.

President.—The next cut motion is by Mr. A. B. Salem. He is absent. Mr. Sankaran Nambudiri is absent. Mr. Ittiravi Nambudiri is absent, and then Mr. C. A. Ouseph.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I have had occasion to say so much about this department during the last budget discussion, that, though I had sent up a motion for reduction this time also, it was not my intention to move it. I intended only to support others who might have sent similar motions. Unfortunately, this time also it has fallen to my lot to cry down the working of the Forest Department. On the last occasion, I took ample pains to bring to the notice of the House the figures showing the working of this department during the last several years. And they are all published in the Report, Vol. I, No. 8.

I have very little to add to those figures. I do not think that anything has fallen from the Conservator of Forests or from any other Member on the Government side that necessitates a revision of my conviction that the Forest Department has long been working at a loss, and that, under the present circumstances, it is not possible for the department to bring in any substantial revenue to the State.

My motion is only to reduce Rs. 20,000 from the total allotment. I would suggest a reduction of about Rs. 18,000 in

the first item, "Timber and other produce removed by Sirkar agency" and some reduction from "stores and elephants". The main head is No. 1—"Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Sirkar agency", and Nos. 4 and 6. No. 5 is "communications buildings and other works." I have no complaint about that. There is no speculation in that part of the department's activity.

President.—So reduction should be made from these items 1, 4 and 6?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes, Sir. I believe it is quite possible to make a reduction from these items, especially in the face of the figures that have been placed before the House, both in this budget and in the budget for 1101. The Forest Department budgetted for a receipt of Rs. 3,88,200 in the budget estimate for 1100, and they revised it at Rs. 3,31,631. When it came to the actual figures of 1100 it fell down by a lakh, the receipts for the year being 2,32,506.

President.—Is it in respect of A or B?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Page 6, IX—Forests, last column, first item

President.—So there is a reduction.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The accounts of 1100 is 2,32,000. I believe I am right. There is a fall of one lakh of rupees. The actuals of 1100—there is 2,32,506; the budget estimate was 3,88,200, and the revised estimate stood at 3,31,681. I am referring to the figures of 1100. They can't be found in the budget estimate before us. I have got the budget estimate for 1101. That gives us the figures for timber and other produce removed by Sirkar agency; the receipts were estimated at 3,31,681, and the actuals published in the budget estimate for 1102 shows a fall by a lakh of rupees. That is seen on page 6 of the budget for 1102. In 1100 receipts on account of timber removed by consumers and purchasers was revised at 2,05,743, and the actuals were 2,05,228. So that in the work that is carried on departmentally we notice a fall of a lakh of rupees as compared with the revised figures. These figures were not available to the House during the last budget discussion. If pains would be taken to go through the figures of the last ten years or more, it will be found that the department has ever been holding out hopes of increasing its revenue in the future, and the hopes always remained unfulfilled. Almost every year, remarks were made in the remarks column that the revenue fell down, because of the paucity of demand for timber. My point is, if there is paucity of demand for timber, and the department has never been able to fulfil the hopes that they were always

holding out, then it is time to look into the matter and reduce the expenditure in the department. This is not a case in which the whole department can be abandoned altogether. We have to do conservancy work, but in the matter of removing timber from the Forests, we can make a reduction in expenditure. We have seen it is not working properly. We can as well allow private consumers to remove our timber, and we get, at least seigniorage for that. If there is proper demand for timber, private consumers will remove it even from the top of Kavala or any other hill. A large part of the loss that we have suffered can be laid at the doors of the Tramway. We have also to spend money for departmental work. These two aspects of the same question cannot be considered separately. The Tramway was auxiliary to Forests. When it was detected that the Forests could not be shown to be working profitably, if the figures for "Forest and Tramway" were shown together, the Tramway was separated and maintained as an independent head. I believe only for about 4 years the Tramway and Forests figures were shown together.

President.—Which are the figures?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I shall come to them.

President.—The Tramway was begun in 1083, and the figures were shown separately from 1083 onwards.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081 and 1082—for five years—the figures were shown together.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—The year in which the Tramway work began—I mean the transport of timber began.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't know. The transport must have begun long before that. Because in 1080 and 1081, we find income from Forests stands at 8,15,000 and 8,24,000 respectively. So that it is clear, in 1080 and 1081 there was timber brought down by the Tramway.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Not from Parambikulam.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—From somewhere. Now, Sir, two facts are patent. There is no demand for timber—rather, such demand as would make departmental work on the Forests profitable.

President.—But should we not give work to the Tramway?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is a separate question. Left to myself, I would say it should be abolished.

President.—There is a Special Finance Committee. They would, I think, consider the question.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It should be given up, as soon as possible. From 1089 onwards we have been hearing that the Tramway cannot be worked profitably, and the views of the then Diwans were referred to by me in the last budget session.

As far back as 1089, it was said that, if we are not able to transport rich timber, which was then rapidly running short, it was not possible to run the Tramway on profitable lines. Now, we are in 1101. Twelve years have passed by, and, even now, we are asking "are we to abandon the Tramway?" I believe it is impossible to work the Tramway profitably. If not, we would have been able to show, in some year or another some little profit. From 1089 to 1100 lakhs and lakhs of candies of timber were got down, and the income to the Government was, during all the 11 years, 8 and a quarter lakhs of rupees.

President.—I will look into the matter. They say we are working at a profit. Some figures are given. They show that we were working at a profit.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—No new figures have been shown. No somersault is possible in these figures. I have taken down the figures. Expenditure.—1,57,300. That is for 1102.

President.—Now, by the sale of timber, we get 2,89,100 as against an expenditure of 1,57,000 and odd. So that there is a clear gain of Rs. 1,32,000. That is what I have noted.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Yes. The figures are in the "Forests." The cost of "Tramway" has to be paid to the "Tramway". Then, there is a profit. I believe the argument is something like that. But it is only an adjustment. Let us take "Tramway" and "Forests" together, and see whether there is any profit.

President.—This is what I pointed out. Taking "Forests" and "Tramway", we hope to realise Rs. 2,89,100.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In which year, Sir.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Next year.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Not in the *past*; always in the future! Oh! Of course, I can understand.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—For the next year 4,83,700.

President.—Is it the figure for 1102 to be realised?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—That I can show you.

President.—Let the future go. Suppose you take 1100.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—I will give 5 years' figures. The net income from the Forest Department including Tramway for the last 5 years averaged Rs. 57,000.

President.—Average net income? Which are the years?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Last 5 years from 1096 to 1100.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The figures are given for each year separately, on page 271 of the *Council Proceedings* in answer to a question.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—It was admitted those figures were erroneous. I have got the correct figures from the *Administration Report*.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—4,40,000 income ; 3,42,000 expenditure.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If we cannot rely on figures, how can we draw inferences from them ?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—In these five years, we have got a net income of 2,85,000. They are correct figures.

President.—By whom were they supplied ?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—*The Administration Report.*

President.—Do you say, Mr. Ouseph, that these figures are not correct ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I do not speak with regard to the figures supplied by the Mulakunnattukavu Member. Some figures were supplied by the Conservator of Forests in answer to a question, and it was admitted, upon being questioned by the Member for Trichur, that some of the figures were mere calculations and not correct. It is in the Report.

President.—If Mr. Achyuta Menon's figures can be relied on, will you kindly look into the figures ?

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—It will mislead us, if we go by the figures of one year or two. For large quantities of timber may be got down for one year.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I have taken the figures of 11 years, figures from war-time onwards.

President.—You look once more.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—I have got figures from 1076.

President.—Now, we will rise.

The Council rose for the day, it being 5 p. m.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,

Secretary to the Council.